

Washington, DC - Less than a month after passing a major economic recovery bill, Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced the release of \$25.67 million in transit funding for Ulster, Orange, and Dutchess counties. A portion of the funds will also go to the Metropolitan Transportation Agency (MTA).

"These federal funds from the economic stimulus measure will pay for important bus, rail, ferry, and other transit projects in Ulster, Orange, and Dutchess counties," Hinchey said. "This is federal funding that wouldn't have gone to our local communities without the recent passage of the economic recovery bill. We still have a lot of work to get our economy back on track, but we are already seeing the tangible benefits of the economic recovery legislation that my colleagues in Congress and I approved."

The federal funds can be used for a wide array of initiatives, including planning, engineering design and the evaluation of transit projects and other technical transportation-related studies -- capital investments in bus and bus-related activities such as replacement of buses, overhaul of buses, rebuilding of buses, ferry activities, rail projects, crime prevention and security equipment and construction of maintenance and passenger facilities; and capital investments in new and existing fixed guideway systems including rolling stock, overhaul and rebuilding of vehicles, track, signals, communications, and computer hardware and software.

The recently released federal funds released today are just one portion of transportation funding from the economic recovery bill. Additional funding announcements will be made in the weeks and months ahead.